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Sunday, February 21, 2021
3315 Bordeaux Dr
Brownsville TX 78526

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

DeAnn T. Walker, Chairman
Arthur C. D'Andrea, Commissioner
Shelly Botkin, Commissioner

Public Utility Commission of Texas
PO Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Dear Chairman and Commissioners –

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I write to you, regarding the investigation of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), in regard to the Feb2021 power outages that affected millions of Texans –expecting your involvement truly makes a difference in preventing similar events in the future.

The following is a limited list of my observations that affected our state, and in my opinion, unnecessarily increased the hardship of many.

Previous recommendations:

Unfortunately, it looks like many of the recommendations made in 2011 for such events were ignored, since they were not mandatory (only suggested) or did not result in a large enough fine.

Report on Outages and Curtailments During the Southwest Cold

Weather Event of February 1-5, 2011

(please see p.195, for Key Findings and Recommendations)

(<https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/08-16-11-report.pdf>)

Enron like scenario?

How many power-generation-plants were shut down voluntarily or did not want to turn on voluntarily, citing high fuel costs (gas et al) -or until the Public Utility Commission set a high enough price per megawatt-hour as an incentive to electricity suppliers to add generating capacity?

At least where we live, our utility Brownsville PUB delayed on or about 4 days to power the Silas Ray Gas Power Plant, a 171MW plant, 100% owned and operated by Brownsville PUB. Coincidentally, the plant was powered, only after local awareness increased, and the Office of the Governor mandated natural gas producers keep supply in Texas.

(<https://www.brownsville-pub.com/utility-services/electric/electrical-system/>)

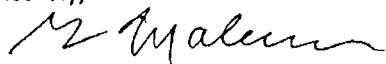
Power Rotating Service:

No transparency or guidance on how were 'non-critical' sectors selected to be OFF, and then ON? At a local level, based on the official notifications (via Twitter) from Brownsville PUB, some areas regained power quickly, while others did not have power for days -and yet some areas, it seems, were never affected. Why were maps showing affected areas during the crisis (not after), not implemented?

(https://twitter.com/BPUB_Tweets)

Thank you in advance for your help and actions, in preventing similar events from happening again.

Sincerely,



Genaro Maldonado